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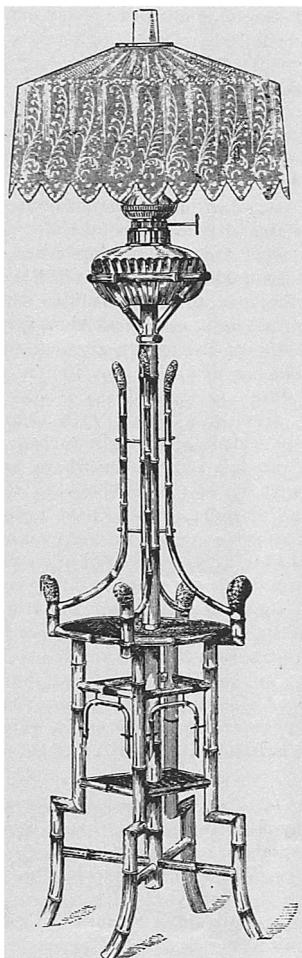
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ance, and, where space is an object, the back of the piano (if curtained with brocade, hanging from one of my favorite wrought iron piano rods) is a good place against which to stand a small writing table,



PIANO LAMP, WITH BAMBOO STAND.

as a piano is seldom used during the writing hours of the day.

It will always be found a great improvement to the formal square lines of a cottage piano to stand a tall palm stand and spreading palm near one side of it in such a manner as partly to overshadow the top of the instrument, while those not severely musical can further improve its appearance by a slip of plush on the top, to hang down about eighteen inches at each end, with a pretty framed photograph or two, and a big yellow pot, filled with a bold group of flowers according to season.

Another change which cannot (at any rate in all but very formal "reception rooms") fail to be an improvement, is the removing of the usual large mirror, which often stretches wearily from mantel-piece to ceiling; for if the *objet d'être* of a mirror is reflection, why then used it so frequently to be placed where it could not possibly show aught but a vast plain of whitewashed ceiling, and perhaps just the tops of the window curtains? Never yet having been able to soar high enough in the "blue empyrean" of decorative taste to cast from me a contemptible and mundane love of mirrors, I would suggest placing the dethroned object (if suitable in shape and size) on the floor, in a position to reflect a pretty bit of the room, or hide an ugly folding door, thus giving a picture, perhaps of tall palms, groups of furniture, and the rich toned background of a well chosen wall covering, instead of the mere weariful ugliness described above.

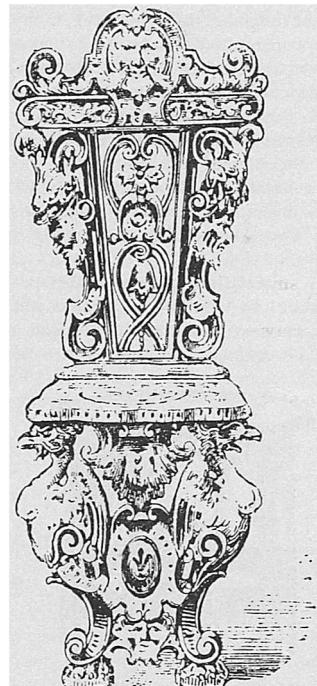
NOVELTIES AND FADS IN TABLE WARE.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

AMONG the season's novelties are many beautiful and unique pieces of china, silver and glass.

Russian china is one of the latest things. It is very expensive and less beautiful than many wares which do not cost nearly so much, but it is especially interesting for the pictures of Russian life which it exhibits. On many of the plates and platters are portrayed the cossack and all the objects familiar to Russian life. The sledge drivers going at a rapid pace are seen on some of the dishes.

A handsome blue and white ware which is known as Royal Copenhagen is receiving much attention and admiration. Although its designs are very



ITALIAN RENAISSANCE HALL CHAIR.

artistic it is not dainty like the Sevres, and it is incomprehensible to most people why it should be so high-priced. A single plate sells for \$27.

Nothing is richer or more effective in china than the Carlsbad dinner-sets, which are very highly colored and gilded. One set has a terra cotta ground and is decorated in bright gold.

The latest fad is gold plated china. Exquisite china is used for the foundation and the gold is applied



LAMP RESERVOIR IN DECORATED BRASS.

over it. Although it is very brilliant and finds a ready market with a certain class of people it is thought to be only a passing fad.

Limoges dinner-sets are very handsome. They have a white ground with double bands of dead gold, and between these bands are decorations of gay flowers in Dresden patterns. The handles of these sets are of solid dead gold. The covered dishes, which are box-shaped, have borders on both dish and cover and the platters have scroll corners.

Novelties in breakfast cereal sets show a deep oval

dish, wide shallow bowls with a plate and individual cream pitcher beneath. The ground work of this service is cream color while the decorations are wheat-ears, oats and grasses in faint browns and greens.

Odd shaped dishes in dark blue are found in hearts, clover leaves and rounds for individual olive dishes, and in crescents, triangular and palm leaf shapes for large olive dishes.

A new fish set has a ground work of pale rose color which fades at the centre of the platter and plates and is almost a blue. The decorations are mild fleur-de-lis with grasses, and among them are swimming fishes with gold scales.

An exquisite cracker jar is in crimson Coalport china.

Biscuit jars are in hamper form with a strap and buckle. Other novel ones resemble a bag with a gold cord and tassels.

Silver cracker jars are broad and low. Many of these novel jars are of glass in oval shape with a high silver top, and the tray on which they stand is silver.

A bread server is a new English novelty. In shape it resembles a short, very wide fork, and it may be of wood, steel or silver. It is intended to remove the slices of bread from the plate.

The latest thing in knives and forks have spiral handles. The large rings begin at the blade and decrease in size until pointed at the end.

A new bon-bon spoon has an open fish-net bowl with a butterfly in the centre, or if one chooses, a monogram instead.



CARVED WOOD BRACKET.

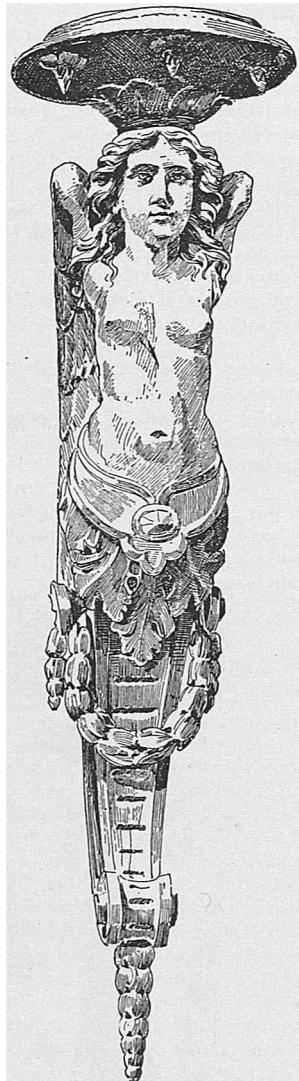
Oyster knives for table use are among the season's novelties. They are said by one writer to resemble "daggers with their guards."

Asparagus holders are growing in popularity.

There are end nippers to these tongs and a spring is pressed when the asparagus is taken.

New pie knives are very plain and narrower than usual and do not resemble fish knives as much as they used to.

Cheese knives and the "saw-cake knife" are no longer considered luxuries, but necessities in every well regulated household.



CARVED WOOD BRACKET.

Silver cups for children have a plain polished surface with smooth rounded edges. Many are plain with no ornamentation, while others have a single garland design.

Individual china trays for invalids are exquisite pieces of china in beautiful English ware. Depressions are found in the tray for holding the creamer, sugar basket and covered cup, and a projection for the bread and butter. The latest trays have a toast rack, which is composed of three bars.

Among late novelties are egg-sets in fascinating shapes. A circular stand with a centre handle is supplied with six cups and spoons, each of which rests in its own place in receptacles which are ranged round the centre of equal distance. The spoons, like the cups, are china. Dresden sets sell for \$18.50.

The silver cheese-holders, which were lately introduced are of fine plated ware and clasp the cheese tightly. A knob or handle, which is screwed into the top of the cheese, and a curved spoon-like knife accompanies the cheese-holder. This pretty set can be purchased for \$4.00, and is found very useful by those who serve the pineapple and edam cheeses.

SCHEME FOR A VIOLET ROOM—GUEST CHAMBER IN A COUNTRY HOUSE.

"THE earth was made so various that the mind of desultory man (studious of change and pleased with novelty) might be indulged."

So have I often thought after seeing the hundreds of pink and blue rooms that it would truly be a great pleasure to waken up from the arms of Morphus and find myself transplanted in some welcome novelty.

I will give to your readers a scheme for a violet room, a guest chamber in a country home, which in beauty, warmth of color cannot be surpassed.

Now in the days when drapery chintz and cretonne are so cheap, this room can be made very effective in inexpensive material. More costly fabrics, however, produce richer effects, but this is at the convenience of the housewife. To begin with the foundation, the floor, carpet it with a pretty golden olive ingrain carpet at 90 cents a yard, or should you desire something less costly, paint it olive.

Paper the walls with orange colored paper having flowers of violet and heliotrope shades and colors. Use the same color for ceiling, only lighter in tone, and drop ceiling paper to the picture moulding



A HOME MADE DAMASCUS TABLE.

twelve inches from ceiling. Paint the wood two shades of light violet, using the lighter shade for the panels of the door.

These colors are exquisite in wood and take the place of the blue so much used.

Drape the mantel with orange figured cretonne hid with violet ribbon. Cover the chairs also with the same.

Use orange colored crepe at a shilling a yard for sash curtains. These will impart a beautiful golden light to the room which is extremely effective and becoming. Other curtains can be suspended from poles.

For the bed nothing is prettier than the pure white-spread and the dainty home-made shams that are always found in a country home. If you should desire a change, I will suggest a chamber roll covered with yellow linen, ornamented with a bow of violet ribbon. The spread of same linen decorated with bunches of violets, heliotrope or sprays of lilacs worked in the outline stitch, that is so easily and quickly done.

Make pincushion of light violet satin edged with artificial violets, and a dainty lace covering for the centre. This is an exceedingly pretty cushion and can be made of five-eighths of a yard of satin at 49 cents a yard, four bunches of violets twenty cents, and one yard of oriental lace at fifteen cents. Use about two yards of orange crepe to throw over the top of mirror.

Use American rugs for the floor, as in these you can always find harmonious colors at a moderate expense.

Some very effective rugs, can be made in a short time by cutting calico or flannel into narrow strips and drawing them through coarse canvass or coffee sacks. Tie these on the right side and leave ends to every knot one-half inch long.

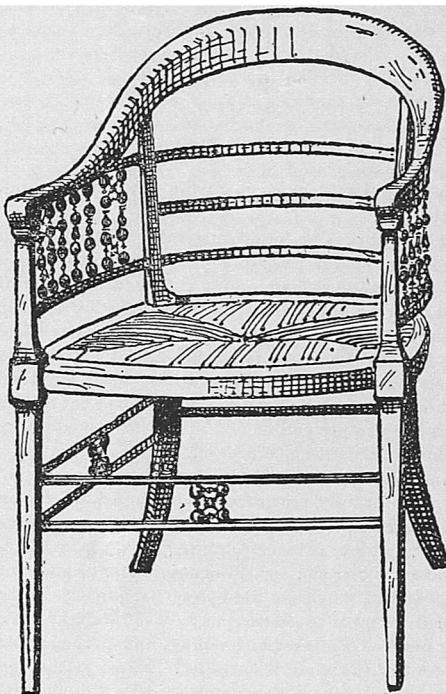
For this room make two rugs, one with violet centre with an orange border ten inches wide. The other an orange centre with a variegated border twelve inches deep of violet, olive and golden shades. These rugs are lovely when knotted closely and afford fascinating work. They can both be made for five dollars.

A DWELLING IN INDIA.

IN PHILLIPS BROOKS' "Letters from India," in the September CENTURY, is a description of a dwelling house in India.

"Fancy," says he, "an enormous house rambling out into a series of immense rooms, all on one floor, piazzas twenty feet deep, immense chambers (in the middle of which stands the beds), doors and windows wide open, the grounds filled with palms, bananas, and all sorts of tropical trees, the song of birds, the chirp of insects everywhere, and a dazzling sun blazing down on the Indian Ocean in front. A dozen or more dusky Hindu servants, barefooted, dressed in white, with bright sashes around their waists, and bright turbans on their heads, are moving about everywhere, as still as cats, and with no end of devotion to their little duties. One of them seems to have nothing to do but to look after me; he has worked over my limited wardrobe till he knows every shirt and collar better than I do myself. He is now brushing my hat for the twelfth time this morning. The life is luxurious. Quantities of delightful fruit, cool lounging-places with luxurious chairs, sumptuous breakfast (or "tiffin," as we call it here) and dinner-table, and no end of kind attention. I am writing in my room the day before Christmas, as if it were a rather hot August morning at home."

PILLOWS made of cotton goods, gay plaid gingham, or other washable materials, are useful on any



RUSH SEAT EASY CHAIR.

lounge, and add a bit of color to a room, which is always pleasing.

A bedspread for use in summer is a white linen cover, embroidered all over in some simple geometric design in either white linen or silk, and finished on the edge with a full ruffle of heavy white lace. This is dainty and easy to make, and has the advantage of laundering well, which is always a great consideration in matters of this kind.